

#### WHAT WE CLAIM

1. An image forming apparatus comprising image forming stations for respective colors arranged along a transfer belt, each said image forming station including an image carrier, a charging means and a developing means disposed around said image carrier, said image forming apparatus further comprising a housing body in which said image forming stations and said transfer belt are situated, a support frame for supporting rollers around which said transfer belt is laid with some tension, and an image density detecting means which is arranged to face said transfer belt, wherein said support frame is attached to the housing body such that the support frame is detachable relative to the housing body by means of pivotal movement, said image forming apparatus being characterized by further having a locking means for locking said support frame to the housing body, wherein said image density detecting means is disposed in proximity to said locking means.

2. An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said transfer belt is a paper carrying belt.

3. An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said transfer belt is an intermediate transfer belt.

3. An image forming apparatus comprising image forming stations for respective colors arranged along a transfer belt, each said image forming station including an image carrier, a charging means and a developing means disposed around said image carrier, said image forming apparatus further comprising a housing body in which said image forming

stations and said transfer belt are situated, a support frame for supporting rollers around which said transfer belt is laid with some tension, and an image density detecting means which is arranged to face said transfer belt, said image forming apparatus being characterized in that said support frame is attached to the housing body such that the support frame is detachable relative to the housing body by means of pivotal movement and said image density detecting means is disposed in proximity to one of said rollers which is the nearest to the pivot of said support frame.

5. An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said transfer belt is a paper carrying belt.

6. An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said transfer belt is an intermediate transfer belt.

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